

Appendix K: Stranahan Forest Stewardship Committee

The Stranahan Forest is owned by the town, and the Selectboard, with recommendations from the Stranahan Forest Stewardship Committee (the Committee), makes major management decisions regarding the Forest, including approving updates to the Management Plan. The Committee is responsible for the day to day operational and maintenance activities in the Forest.

Committee Selection

The Selectboard appoints members to serve on the seven-member Committee, for three-year terms. When there is a vacancy on the Committee, the Selectboard will solicit letters of interest from town residents for consideration of appointment. The Selectboard will not appoint Committee members that have a direct financial conflict of interest with the management of the Forest. Letters of interest for Committee appointment shall include references to the interested citizen's:

- willingness to be responsible for management decisions that are in the best interest of both the Stranahan Forest and the Town of Marshfield
- interest in being a committee member
- area of special interest, or projects they are interested in, as a potential committee member
- commitment to follow the open meeting law and the agreed to meeting procedures
- willingness to participate without interest in financial gain
- agreement to work collaboratively and to try to make collective decisions as a committee
- agreement to hold joint responsibility for decisions made and actions taken by the Committee

Stranahan Forest Fund

Any revenue collected from activities in the Stranahan Forest is accounted for separately. One half of all revenue is deposited into the Town's General Fund and one half into the Stranahan Forest Fund. At present (2022), the Stranahan Forest Fund has a maximum balance of \$5,000. If the maximum balance is reached, any additional revenue goes into the General Fund. Stranahan Forest Fund dollars are for specific management activities in the Stranahan Forest and must be included in the Committee's approved annual budget or approved separately by the Selectboard.

Committee Governance

The Committee meets regularly as agreed to by the Committee and follows the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, including posting an agenda and keeping and posting minutes according to town policy. The chair of the Committee attends periodic Selectboard meetings to apprise the board of activities and issues.

Committee Job Description

Purpose: To manage the Stranahan Forest in a manner consistent with the Management Plan and the conservation easement. The Committee is responsible for:

- Educational programs
- Publicity to encourage the use of the forest
- Events (by the Committee and requested by the public) held in the forest
- Existing fields and pastures
- Existing recreational trails
- Thompson Road
- Parking and information areas
- Interpretation of natural, historic, and cultural resources
- Annual review of any contracts, MOUs, and agreements that the town has regarding the Stranahan Forest

The Committee shall create an annual report and budget for the Committee's management of the Forest, and present them to the Selectboard before the end of each year. The annual report will make recommendations for any changes and/or updates to be made to the Stranahan Forest Management Plan, and provide a brief description of what happened with the Forest during the past year, and activities planned for the year ahead. The Committee will review the Management Plan each year, and will recommend updates to it at least every five to ten years. The Committee will consult with stakeholders and seek public input when recommending updates to the Management Plan.

The Committee shall make recommendations to the Selectboard for decisions regarding any of the following activities in the Forest:

- Logging and/or any other silviculture
- Sugaring
- The pasturing of animals and/or haying
- Creating or decommissioning of recreational trails, such as for hiking, biking, snowmobiling, and horse back riding
- Preserving natural, historic, and cultural resources
- Establishing new interpretive or informational signs

- Any other issues that the Committee decides that the Selectboard needs to address

Recommendations provided to the Selectboard shall be approved by the Committee and transmitted to the Selectboard in letter or e-mail form. The Chair of the Committee will present the recommendations and answer any questions the Selectboard may have. When the Selectboard makes a decision regarding the Stranahan Forest, the Selectboard will notify the Committee of the decision.